

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An optical amplifying and relaying system comprising:

an up and a down optical transmission line opposing each other,  
amplifiers each provided on each of the optical transmission lines, and  
monitoring light signal folding-back lines connected between the two optical  
transmission lines and each including an optical coupler for taking out a monitoring light  
signal led to the own optical transmission line and a wavelength selective reflecting means for  
transmitting the monitoring light signal received from the own optical transmission line by  
folding-back transmission to the opposite optical transmission line,

wherein: the optical amplifying and relaying system further comprises variable optical  
attenuators each provided between each optical coupler and the associated wavelength  
selective reflecting means.

Claims 2-4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Original) The optical amplifying and relaying system according to claim 1, wherein  
the monitoring light signal folding-back lines each include a pair of lines for transmitting a  
light signal from the output side of the optical amplifier on the own optical transmission line  
to the input side of the optical amplifier on the opposite optical transmission line.

Claims 6-8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) An optical amplifying and relaying system comprising:  
an up and a down optical transmission line opposing each other,  
amplifiers each provided on each of the optical transmission lines, and  
monitoring light signal folding-back lines connected between the two optical  
transmission lines and each including an optical coupler for taking out a monitoring light  
signal led to the own optical transmission line and a wavelength selective reflecting means for  
transmitting the monitoring light signal received from the own optical transmission line by  
folding-back transmission to the opposite optical transmission line,

wherein variable optical attenuators are each provided between each optical coupler  
and the associated wavelength selective reflecting means, and the monitoring light signal  
branched and reflected by each coupler on optical amplifier output side of the own optical  
transmission line is transmitted via the optical coupler and optical amplifier input side on the  
opposite optical transmission line to the same opposite optical transmission line.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) An optical amplifying and relaying system comprising:

an up and a down optical transmission line opposing each other,  
amplifiers each provided on each of the optical transmission lines, and  
monitoring light signal folding-back lines connected between the two optical  
transmission lines and each including an optical coupler for taking out a monitoring light  
signal led to the own optical transmission line and a wavelength selective reflecting means for  
transmitting the monitoring light signal received from the own optical transmission line by  
folding-back transmission to the opposite optical transmission line,

wherein variable optical attenuators are each provided between each optical coupler and the associated wavelength selective reflecting means, and optical couplers are provided on the output and input sides of each optical amplifier, and the branched and reflected monitoring light signals on each optical transmission line side are transmitted via the output and input sides, respectively, of the optical amplifier on the opposite optical transmission line to the same opposite optical transmission line.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) An optical amplifying and relaying system comprising:  
an up and a down optical transmission line opposing each other,  
amplifiers each provided on each of the optical transmission lines, and  
monitoring light signal folding-back lines connected between the two optical transmission lines and each including an optical coupler for taking out a monitoring light signal led to the own optical transmission line and a wavelength selective reflecting means for transmitting the monitoring light signal received from the own optical transmission line by folding-back transmission to the opposite optical transmission line,

wherein variable optical attenuators are each provided between each optical coupler and the associated wavelength selective reflecting means, and on each optical transmission line a monitoring light signal branched and reflected by an optical amplifier output side optical coupler via an optical coupler and the optical amplifier input side on the opposite transmission line to the same opposite optical transmission line, while a monitoring light signal branched and reflected by an optical amplifier output side on the opposite optical transmission line to the same opposite optical transmission line.

Claims 12-14. (Canceled)

Claim 15. (New) The optical amplifying and relaying system according to claim 9, wherein wavelength selective reflecting means is provided preceding to and subsequent to the variable optical attenuator.

Claim 16. (New) The optical amplifying and relaying system according to claim 10, wherein wavelength selective reflecting means is provided preceding to and subsequent to the variable optical attenuator.

Claim 17. (New) The optical amplifying and relaying system according to claim 11, wherein wavelength selective reflecting means is provided preceding to and subsequent to the variable optical attenuator.

Claim 18. (New) The optical amplifying and relaying system according to claim 9, wherein an optical isolator is provided as an intermediate stage in each monitoring light signal folding-back line, and each said wavelength selective reflecting means uses an optical fiber grating.

Claim 19. (New) The optical amplifying and relaying system according to claim 10, wherein an optical isolator is provided as an intermediate stage in each monitoring light signal folding-back line, and each said wavelength selective reflecting means uses an optical fiber grating.

Claim 20. (New) The optical amplifying and relaying system according to claim 11, wherein an optical isolator is provided as an intermediate stage in each monitoring light signal folding-back line, and each said wavelength selective reflecting means uses an optical fiber grating.